

NOT FOR  
CIRCULATION

# California GARDEN

July/August 2006

Volume 97 No. 4

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BEGONIAS FOR  
EVERY GARDEN

Plus

Bromeliads  
Hymenocallis  
Mulching tips



## From the President

It's hard to believe that my two years as president of San Diego Floral Association have come to an end. It's been an incredible experience for me to lead California's oldest horticultural organization as it approaches its 100-year celebration. I'm proud of all the accomplishments of the past couple of years—thanks in large part to very supportive and devoted governing board members together with dedicated office staff and volunteers. What have we done in the last 24 months? A lot! With an emphasis on outreach, we've gained many new members, and I hope some of them will choose to become active volunteers. We've provided informative meetings and programs on topics as diverse as floral and landscape design, and the number of guests in

attendance has increased. The SDFA library has provided services to hundreds of Floral members and guests to Balboa Park. Phase one of the library restoration included adding a fresh coat of paint to walls and cabinets, locating and restoring valuable artifacts, and rearranging furniture. We acquired signs, including a floral one-of-a-kind carved sign placed at the library entrance to inform visitors of our location. Plans are to continue work this summer. And our fabulous book collection continues to increase and to be upgraded under the watchful eyes of our new librarian. The talented website committee members routinely update the calendar, program, and workshop information and have improved and expanded the SDFA website to better serve our members and the public. Continuing a Floral tradition of offering garden-related tours, we have provided a selection of worthwhile tours that were enjoyed by many. Our library was not the only thing that received some rejuvenation. I'm delighted to offer our members and horticultural-minded readers the beautifully updated *California Garden* magazine under the guidance of our new editor working with a skillful editorial committee. It's not only a visual treat, but the content is informative and valuable to our broad audience. It just keeps getting better!

Our mission to support and collaborate with Floral affiliates, community organizations, and Balboa Park was met in numerous ways these past couple of years. Donations were given to various garden clubs and organizations for worthwhile projects, funds were provided to an outdoor school for fire renovation, and trees were purchased and planted to honor outstanding past Floral leaders. We participated in garden festivals, master gardener seminars, and the San Diego County Fair. Using the funds from a successful fundraiser, we purchased a large, bronze plaque and installed it during a special dedication event. The A.D. Robinson plaque now prominently hangs inside the Botanical Building in the park. Furthermore, our participation in the December Nights event in the park last year accommodated a record-breaking number of guests who enjoyed our unique venue. I anticipate many exciting times ahead for Floral, including our centennial year of celebrations. Happy birthday, SDFA! I thank and applaud everyone with whom I've had the good fortune of working these past few years.

Finally, I'd like to extend a warm welcome to all our new, incoming officers, directors, and volunteers. You bring vitality to the organization. I look forward to continuing as a volunteer and promoting the objectives of the association and to enjoying the benefits of this historic organization. All best wishes to the membership, readers, and my gardening friends.

Florally yours,

### WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Share your expertise with us and help make *California Garden* a better magazine! We're looking for freelance volunteer writers and photographers who can supply content. If you'd like to volunteer or would like more information, contact SDFA at 619-232-5762 or send an email to [editor@sdfloral.org](mailto:editor@sdfloral.org).





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## THE MAGAZINE FOR HANDS-ON GARDENERS AND FLORAL DESIGNERS

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# Dig in!

News, tips, advice, and products you can use.

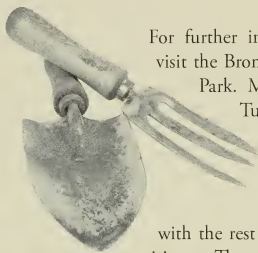
## The Exotic Bromeliad

The bromeliad is a member of a great family of plants known as *bromeliaceae*. Best known is the pineapple.

They are native to South and Central American countries, where they are found mainly in the humid jungles, growing on trees as epiphytes. (They do not derive sustenance from their hosts. They are not parasites.) Some are terrestrials, growing in the ground, and others are saxicolous, clinging to rocks and cliff faces. Bromeliads are very adaptable to various environments, making them one of the most versatile plants in the world.

All bromeliads have the ability to absorb water and nutrients through their leaves, where they are stored and protected from evaporation. Their colorful inflorescence, which lasts for several weeks to many months, will decorate a home and enhance a patio, garden, or landscape. Being easy to grow and maintain, they have caught the attention of many plant enthusiasts who have become bromeliad collectors. With the large variety of species and hybrids, growing these plants is an enjoyable hobby.

The illustrated picture is an example of the variety in this genus. The commonly known pineapple (genus *Ananas*, the name given by the Guarani Indians of Brazil), it is believed that *Ananas comosus* var. *variegatus* is the most decorative and ornamental in its variety. It has striped longitudinal leaves with stunning bright colors of shocking pink, green, and cream, bearing the edible and colorful pineapple, with the "top knot" of variegated leaves and offsets (called pups) growing at the base of the fruit. The fruiting head of the plant is the miniature of the mother plant. It can be cut off and potted in soil to start a new plant, and the pups can be divided and potted as well.



For further information and general help, visit the Bromeliad Study Group of Balboa Park. Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in Room 104, Casa del Prado. There, you will meet its friendly group, who always exchange their ideas with the rest of their fellows members and visitors. The objectives of the Bromeliad

Study Group are to promote and maintain public and scientific interest in research, development preservation, and distribution of the *bromeliaceae*.

At each meeting, after the educational program, a generous plant raffle is held to provide everyone the opportunity to start or add to their collections at a minimal cost. Be prepared to take home some of these nice plants. Visitors and new members are most welcome. When you join, you will receive the colorful monthly newsletter.

### RECOMMENDED READING

*Bromeliads for Home, Garden, and Greenhouse* by Werner Rauh  
(Blandford Press)

As a welcome, new members will be presented with a nice plant at the following meeting. Members can also borrow books from the study group library, and escort service to your car after the meeting is provided on request.—MARY SIEMERS

Have a tip you'd like to share with *California Garden* readers? Send it to [editor@sdfloreal.org](mailto:editor@sdfloreal.org).

# Garden Highlights

**C***erithe major purpurascens* has been described as one of the 100 most beautiful plants in the world. It certainly lives up to that lofty reputation with its beautiful nodding clusters of bluish-purple bracts (*bracts* are a modified leaf) and fleshy, mottled, blue-green leaves spiraling up the arching stems and purple-blue flowers on a 2–3 ft. tall annual plant. The flowers are tubular bells of intense blue or purple, delicately scalloped and lined in cream. *Cerithe* blooms profusely in spring and summer, which means nearly all year round in San Diego County.

A Mediterranean native, it is extremely easy to grow—and it reseeds! It likes full sun and average water and thrives in all zones. I have not noticed any susceptibility to insects and it does well with benign neglect. By the time the plant dies, it will have reseeded and new plants will be emerging to repeat the glorious cycle.

*Cerithe* (*ser IHN thee*) belongs to a genus of 14 species of flowers (*Boraginaceae*) that includes the borage (or Forget-Me-

Not), heliotrope, beggar's lice, and many pestiferous plants. The word *cerithe* comes from the Greek *keras* (wax) and *anthos* (flower). *Major* (large or high) comes from the Latin *maior* and possibly refers to the flower size, which is larger than that of other *cerithe* species. *Purpurascens* comes from the Latin *purpura* (purple color). More than 2,000 years ago, Virgil, the ancient Roman poet, described using this plant as an offering to swarming bees in order to entice them into a new hive. It got the name *cerithe* because of the waxiness of its leaves and the belief that bees got wax for their hives from this plant.

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*PULMONARIAS AND THE BORAGE FAMILY*  
BY MASHA BENNETT  
(TIMBER PRESS, ISBN: 0881925896)



Originating in the Mediterranean area, it was introduced into cultivation in 1596. Commonly known as honeywort, it is also referred to as Dwarf Kiwi Blue, Blue Shrimp Plant, and Blue Wax Flower. Although grown in European pleasure gardens since the middle ages, this Mediterranean native was rarely grown in the West until a couple decades ago. A beautiful and unusual annual, it attracts hummingbirds and bees because of its plentiful nectar.

There are several varieties of *cerithe*, but the most popular in gardens and nurseries is *Cerithe major var. Purpurascens*. In early summer, Greek fields are ablaze with these common wildflowers. The stunning color makes it a great cut flower. It can also be used with other flowers, similar to using baby's breath to enhance your floral arrangement.—SUE HAUWILLER

## Request for Floral Memorabilia

**E**nter the San Diego Floral Association office and library and you will be surrounded by floral history. The portraits of Kate Sessions, A.D. Robinson, and Mary Greer look down at us and at the trophies they won for outstanding roses and gardens from 1923 to 1932. Tucked away from the light are the framed ribbons won in flower shows by many SDFA members. Members with an interest in floral design may look through scrapbooks of past floral design shows. You can also access any *California Garden* magazine from 1910 to the present in our bound copies.

Next year, SDFA celebrates the 100th anniversary of our founding. The board is now requesting members who may have saved part of this history and want to share it for this special occasion or donate it for our archives to contact Kay Harry, 619-222-5207 or shipdragon@earthlink.net. We have just received a gift of a set of beautiful flower show slides from 1950 from Mrs. Edger, a relative of one of our most prominent members, Mary Greer. Gifts like this will become a valuable part of our archival history and may be used in many ways for our centennial activities. We would appreciate your help in this important endeavor.—KAY HARRY





This summer is  
the perfect time  
to celebrate the  
multifaceted begonia.

# Begin the Begonia

BY MICHAEL LUDWIG

They're woven throughout your life. You're growing bedding begonias in the garden or in a pot at your front door, you remember the 6-foot bamboo stems of *Begonia Lucerna* in your backyard as you grew up and the tubers that were started in the spring. Your grandmother had beautiful lily pad and lettuce leaf begonias growing next to the windows on plant stands. You even received a *Reiger begonia* at Christmas from a friend. They're everywhere. Or at least they should be.

Diversity! *Begonias*, with their variety of shapes, sizes, textures, and colors and their range of habitats, have the ability to be a plant for almost any condition in the house or garden. From the diminutive terrarium-loving *B. prismatocarpa* to the towering 10-foot *B. luxurians*, there's a plant to fit any location. Tiny leaves half the size of a fingernail to giant 2- to 3-foot monsters are all possible. They're mostly asymmetric, but they don't just come in roundish, earlike, or angel wing configurations. They may be lanceolate, deeply cut, compound to highly dissected fernlike leaves. Surfaces may be smooth to highly topographical with raised and sunken veins or areas between them; plus, they can be glabrous to highly hirsute, top, bottom, or both. Oh, and let's not forget the possibility of adventitious growths. Time to add some color—a full range of greens are here along with reds, pinks, silver, whites, and yellows in dots, lines, streaks, splashes, splotches, and glazes. In the royalty, the *B. rex cultorum* group, all these colors are possible in one leaf. There's even the possibility of blue in a

low-light growing species. Variations and possibilities are nearly limitless within *Begonia* species and the ones nature didn't think of, the hybridizer has mixed and matched to produce.

But, alas, if you've seen one *begonia* flower, you've only seen two. They come in male and female. Color is limited to mostly white or pink but there are yellow, red, and orange species and these have been exploited by the hybridizer to broaden horizons in the various growth habits. The characteristic clam shell tepals opens up to show the bright yellow stamen in the center of the male flower with few if any extra tepals. The exception is the flamboyant *Tuberhybrida*. In these, the stamens have transformed themselves into a wide range of petals to create true masterpieces. In prime growing areas—Coastal Northern California and up, England and Scotland, and New Zealand and Southern Australia—these petals will create a flower nearly 12 inches across. The female tepals open to reveal the styles and stigmatic surfaces, also with few extra tepals. This takes place in front of an inferior ovary that usually contains 3 cells in which the dustlike seed will mature.

*Begonia* is a large genus among flowering plants, with approximately 1,500 species. There is only one other genus, *Hillebrandia*, in the *Begoniaceae* family. *Hillebrandia sandwicensis* is a seldom-cultivated plant from the Hawaiian islands; it grows in moist areas in the tropical rain forest and along stream beds. It has a fleshy rhizome that allows the plant to go dormant during the summer and autumn but is favored among the feral pigs on the islands, which has contributed to its declining population. The 12 members of *Symbegonia*, another genus, have now been merged into *Begonia*.

When dealing with such a large genus, it's necessary for botanists to find a way to break it down into more manageable groups to work with for classification. In *Begonia*, that's sections. The definitive work on this is *The Sections of Begonia: Including Descriptions, Keys, and Species Lists* by J. Doorenbos, M. S. M. Sosef, and J.J.F.E. de Wilde (Agricultural University, 1998). This is number six in the *Studies of Begoniaceae* series by the Wageningen Agricultural University in The Netherlands. It identifies 63 characteristics that are combined in various combinations of haves and have nots into 63 sections. Even so, not all plants fit neatly into the defined sections. Sections tend to have species from one geographic area, so knowing where a plant is from is of great help in identifying it. Some begonias are restricted only to a single population. This is due to the fact that most begonias rely on water or wind to disperse their seeds, neither of which offers long-range movement.

Begonias are easy to grow. The trick is matching your growing conditions and habits to the right begonias. The main growth habits for begonias are canes, shrubs, rhizomatous, semperflorescens, tuberous, rex-cultorum, trailing or scandent, and thick-stemmed. Light, water, humidity, and temperature are intertwined with soil mix, pot size, and type; these will determine feeding.

Enclosed containers or terrariums are the ultimate in control. There are begonias that must be grown enclosed because our homes or yards don't offer the humidity or protection that they require. They may be small or large plants. *B. prismatocarpa* is a small plant but will cover the ground in any size container; others need a large container for height reasons. *B. Exotica* will become several feet high and enjoys a terrarium. Most begonias will be happy with average humidity.

Begonias grow in a wide range of light conditions. Individual plants also grow in a range and will need time to find the best lighting. Along the coast, some will take full sun (e.g., semperflorens or canes), but some shading will make most begonias look their lushest in most locations. In too much light, the leaves will become smaller and thicker. Leaf marking may come and go with the light levels also, especially in rhizomatous types. Generally, light requirements, from highest to lowest, would be semperflorens, canes, thick-stemmed, shrubs, tuberous, trailing or scandent rhizomatous, and rex. There are exceptions of course. If they are receiving too little light, the leaves will be larger, petioles and stems will be overly elongated, plants will get floppy, blooming will be sparser, and colors will be less vibrant.

Begonias are comfortable in a range of 55 to 85 degrees Fahrenheit, with a definite drop at night. This is very important. Growers in Sacramento and Florida have problems with some begonias because, during the summer, they will not get adequate cooling at night.

Over-watering is what kills many plants, including begonias. When watering, the whole soil mass should moisten thoroughly and then be allowed to start to dry slightly before watering again. When actively growing, begonias will take regular watering and feeding for optimal growth. As the weather cools and they slow

and stop growing, their feeding and watering must also decline. They don't like wet feet, especially if they're cold. They will handle the cold better if they are on the dry side. Look at a rhizomatous begonia and see that as a huge water reservoir growing along the ground. Begonias are succulent and most will wait. If in doubt, wait another day or two. A balanced liquid fertilizer will work fine when used regularly during the growing season. Timed release formulas are easy to apply and keep plants fat and happy.

Begonias are shallow-rooted and do well in like pots. The taller growing canes and shrubs need a deeper pot for stability. A loose soil mix is preferred, with a little extra perlite or maybe some bark added to a packaged mix. I've seen some mixes that were next to concrete in consistency and weight and still let begonias grow beautifully. Use a

mix that you're comfortable with for your watering style. Happy plants will be plants that are free of pests and diseases. I have few problems with my begonias. The occasional mealybug, scale, or aphid may be treated with an

appropriate pesticide. The appearance of mildew should be quickly controlled with a fungicide. Always read labels for proper use.

Propagation is quick and easy. A piece of a stem or rhizome will root easily. A leaf from a rhizomatous can be started like an African violet leaf. You can use water, perlite, or even soil mix to do this. Do enclose it to increase humidity and keep the cutting or leaf fresh during the rooting. The dustlike seed can be surface-sown in an enclosed container. Most will germinate and be up within a few weeks—some within a week. Transplant them up as needed and open to the air as they are large enough.

New books are available increasing the valuable resource of knowledge about begonias. Mark C. Tebbitt of the Brooklyn Botanical Garden has the wonderful book *Begonias: Cultivation, Identification, and Natural History* published in 2005 by Timber Press. *Begonias of Peninsular Malaysia* by Ruth Kiew of the Singapore Botanic Gardens, also published in 2005, is an excellent book published by Natural History Publications (Borneo). Both are great reading and give new material to the 1981 *Begonias: The Complete Reference Guide* by Mildred L. Thompson and Edward J. Thompson. The web offers great information also. The American Begonia Society's page at [www.begonias.org](http://www.begonias.org) is a valuable starting point. The ABS's Astro Branch in Texas has a rich information site at <http://absastro.tripod.com>. There are numerous others that offer detailed and fascinating information. Kartuz Greenhouses in Vista offers an excellent selection of begonias and other plants, and hybridizer Brad Thompson has recently moved there and will be offering his hybrids at the nursery.

The diversity of begonias is expanding daily. New species are being collected around the world, old ones being collected and reintroduced. Hybridizers are expanding their magic using the new species to create new treasures. Growers and botanists are writing new books or web pages to share knowledge with others.

*Horticulturalist Michael Ludwig is president of the Margaret Lee branch of the American Begonia Society.*

# Mighty Mulch Can Save the Day

BY JOHN NOBLE

**T**his hot and dry time of year is hard on our gardens, especially in the desert and inland areas. Often, these areas go without rain for five or six months. Near the coast, some cloudy marine layer may provide minor relief, and sometimes this includes a wet fog. In the mountains, an occasional summer thunderstorm will give relief.

What can we do to help our gardens? Mulch, of course! Mulch is any material, natural or artificial, that is applied on top of the soil surface. It includes compost, soil amendments, straw, shredded bark, walk-on bark, peat moss, rice hulls, cocoa hulls, paper, gravel, weed cloth, and plastic sheeting.

**Compost is ideal mulch.** Every garden should have a compost system. Food scraps, lawn clippings, leaves, and newspapers can be converted into rich black compost. Soil amendments include forest products, sand, and manure. Many types are available. For small gardens, these bags of amendment work well. Check with your local nursery for the ones they recommend.

**Straw makes good mulch.** Try it in pathways or around vegetable gardens. It has a nice, clean, light, bright effect.

**Bark makes great mulch.** The small walk-on bark is highly recommended. This bark works well for pathways and in flowerbeds. Larger barks will work if their texture is desired. Shredded bark, because of its matting effect, works well on steep slopes and on slippery, wet, sloping pathways. The use of bark may require some fertilizers to be added.

**Peat moss is great for the soil.** It holds water and helps both clay and sandy soils. Because it is very light and absorbs water slowly, it is best used mixed into the soil. If used as surface mulch, combine it with other materials.

**Rice hulls are found in some soil amendments.** They break down very slowly and are recommended

for clay soils.

**Cacao hulls have a delicious smell.** They are great to place in some flowerbeds when there is going to be a party. Note: Dogs may eat hulls and get sick.

**Paper makes good mulch.** Cover weedy areas of your garden with Sunday's newspaper. Then cover paper with an inch or two of compost. Weed as needed. Gravel makes wonderful mulch. It will last for years. There are many colors and sizes to choose from. Three to four inches of gravel works well.

**Weed cloth controls weeds.** It is a synthetic material with tiny holes that allow water and air through but prohibits weed growth. It doesn't biodegrade, so be careful—either bury under three or four inches of gravel or use it on the surface as a temporary cover. Otherwise, the garden looks like it has plastic garbage bags planted everywhere.

**Mulch shades the soil surface.** Observe our natural habitats. Most of the hills are covered with shrubs, grasses, or wildflowers. In the summer, many plants dry up, but still they provide a blanket of shade over the soil surface. This definitely helps with water retention. If a weed whacker and rake clean up a landscape, there is no protection from the powerful rays of the sun.

**Mulch regulates the soil temperature.** Many seeds and plants need a warm soil temperature for healthy growth. So waiting for late spring or early summer before mulching is definitely recommended. Then the soil temperature will be warm but not baking hot.

**Mulch can help water infiltrate the ground.** If you have ever attempted to water a baked, dry soil, you might recall how the water balled up

## WHERE TO FIND COMPOST

Miramar Landfill  
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on the surface and started to run off. The dry soil has an initial resistance. It takes time for the water to start entering into the soil. Once the soil is moistened, it will begin to pull more water into the soil. Mulch traps water in the soil. With mulching and deep watering, gardens will do well. The water will penetrate deep into the soil and the mulch will act as a blanket holding the moisture in the ground.

**Mulch helps our soils.** As organic mulches break down, they enter the soil. Organic matter helps with the structure of the soil. In dense clay soils, organic matter helps with water percolation and aeration. Adding gypsum will also open up the soil. In sandy soils, organic matter helps with water retention.

**Mulch is healthy for our plants.** Compost is like gold. It is rich in nitrogen and other nutrients for the health of our gardens. If you have enough good homegrown compost, you may never need to buy commercial fertilizers.

**Mulch helps prevent erosion.** Mulch provides a greater surface area for rain to adhere to and work its way around. This provides time for the rain to slowly seep into the soil. Topsoil is very valuable, so preventing erosion is likewise valuable.

**Mulch can control weeds.** For this, the deeper the better; four to six inches of mulch is ideal. A few, if any, weeds will survive. Follow up hand weeding to control them all.

Garden design and the desired effects of the mulch should determine your selection of type of mulch. For example: A cacti and succulent garden looks great with a gravel cover. Three or four inches of gravel helps control weeds, stops erosion, allows water to percolate through soil, increases aeration at soil surface, and saves water by shading the soil surface.

The use of two different types of mulch can work for function and design. Rich dark black compost, spread throughout the flowering beds, will give contrast and definition to a pathway of light brown groundcover bark. The dark black compost will control weeds, feed the plants and save water. The light brown bark will control weeds and save water. For a few dollars, these two mulches will give your garden a clean and fresh look similar to a brand new landscape.

The health of your garden is determined by many factors. Sufficient water is definitely one. Healthy soil is another. And then of course there is the heroic and varied benefactor—mulch.

---

*John Noble is the owner of Coastal Sage Gardening and Botany for Kids, as well as cofounder of In Harmony Herbs and Spices.*



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# Now is the time

## AFRICAN VIOLETS

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- ✿To maintain room temperature for violets above 60° and below 80°.
- ✿To brush leaves with a camelhair brush to remove dust or even pet hairs.
- ✿To mist violets periodically in hot weather with a very warm water in a spray bottle. The water will cool before it hits the plants and provide extra moisture. Blot centers dry to avoid bright sunlight until droplets dry.
- ✿To search for outer leaves having powdery mildew. Rub them lightly with fingers under the faucet with warm water. Pat dry. Try to place the plants where there is better air circulation.
- ✿To watch for violets with leaves having long petioles, indicating that the plant is not getting enough light. Plants in these locations are less likely to bloom often.

## BEGONIAS

- ✿To repot plants if needed—step up to the next size container.
- ✿To make cuttings when trimming or pruning.
- ✿To groom and inspect plants throughout growing season.
- ✿To check for mildew—spray at once for control.
- ✿To check for snails, slugs, and fungus.
- ✿To pot rooted cuttings and leaves.
- ✿To continue feeding.
- ✿To remove old flowers from tuberous type by snapping off the blossoms, not the stems.
- ✿To feed tuberous plants when flower buds appear. Feed one tablespoon High-Bloom and one tablespoon of fish emulsion to one gallon of water.

## BONSAI

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB

- ✿To water, water, water—but not over-water. During the hot months, it is best to water early in the day. Some bonsai may need two or three waterings on hot, dry days.
- ✿To turn some trees for even sun exposure.
- ✿To protect some plants by moving into a shaded area out of direct sun.
- ✿To check for insects and pests—spray with a diluted spray. (Be careful with elm trees, which usually do not need spraying.)
- ✿To mist or spray foliage of certain bonsai, those that are humidity-loving, in the evening or early morning.

- ✿To wait until September or October to transplant bonsai.
- ✿To remove excess blossoms from trees to save their strength for next year. Defoliate some of the deciduous varieties in July—not later.

## BROMELIADS

MARY SIEMERS, BROMELIAD STUDY GROUP OF BALBOA PARK

- ✿To protect plants from getting sunburn by keeping them under shade cloth or any other material that will provide plenty of light for their best color and conformation.
- ✿To water by spraying entire plant, as bromeliads absorb moisture and nutrients through their leaves. Be careful not to over-water the media, to prevent unhealthy soggy roots.
- ✿To fertilize monthly during warm weather, by spraying with water-soluble fertilizer, especially one high in acid, using one-half the recommended amount on the label. (Bromeliads do not care for fish emulsion).
- ✿To fertilize roots with a slow time-release fertilizer (preferably granular type) every three months. Example: For a 6-inch container, spread one teaspoon of fertilizer over the media around the plant.
- ✿To make new plants by cutting off sets (pups) when they are one-third to one-half the size of the mother plant. Warm weather will encourage root growth. Always provide good drainage.

## CACTI AND SUCCULENTS

- ✿To watch plants during hot weather. If they dry out too much, they can shrivel and burn in the sun. Protect delicate specimens from the sun with screen.
- ✿To water plants carefully. Some like to dry between waterings; others can take it wetter. Use less on the plants that are dormant.
- ✿To fertilize growing plants but do not overfeed. A good rule of thumb is half strength every other watering.
- ✿To watch plants for pests—especially snails. Treat immediately but be careful with insecticides.
- ✿To check for plants that need repotting and do so.
- ✿To enjoy your collection—take a little time to look at your plants.

## CALIFORNIA NATIVES

JOHN NOBLE

- ✿To let your garden go into the summer show. The annuals go dry, and many of the perennial shrubs and trees will go into a summer dormancy. Other perennials will thrive in the summertime dryness.

- ✳ To look for the powerful summer flowering natives such as datura, wild buckwheat, and California fuchsia.
- ✳ To harvest elderberries, lemonade berries, and wild rosehips.
- ✳ To clean up the garden. Clear out the paths and prune out the truly dead growth.
- ✳ To check your irrigation schedule. Most natives will enjoy an occasional deep summer watering. Misting or light spraying with a hose is the best way to evaluate each plant's water needs.

## CAMELLIAS

- ✳ To continue to feed cottonseed meal at the rate of 1 tablespoon per gallon-sized potted plant or up to 2 cups per large plant in ground every 4–6 weeks through mid-August.
- ✳ To watch for loopers, mites, and aphids. Hose off aphids; use malathion for loopers and a miticide for mites. Scales may sometimes be seen but are easily rubbed off. Orthere is an alternative for all the above.
- ✳ To maintain mulch around plants to keep roots cool and moist during hot, dry days.
- ✳ To continue regular watering. Inconsistent watering during this period is a primary cause of bud drop during blooming season.
- ✳ To start to disbud plants if fewer but larger blooms are desired. The degree of disbudding is a personal decision. Consider leaving only one bud per cluster. For show-quality blooms, as few as one bud per branch may be left.

## DAHLIAS

- ✳ To keep old blossoms cut back to first of leaves from the main stalk to prolong blooming.
- ✳ To disbud to encourage better blooms.
- ✳ To tie canes to prevent plants breaking—use a loop for each cane.
- ✳ To continue a regular watering program.
- ✳ To spray for insects and mildew; control slugs and snails.
- ✳ To feed with a 5-10-10 fertilizer.
- ✳ To cut blossoms in late afternoon or early morning and place immediately in water.

## EPIPHYLLUMS

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY

- ✳ To watch moisture—spray or mist is beneficial during hot, dry weather. Spray during evening hours or early morning.
- ✳ To report plants that are root-bound.
- ✳ To take new cuttings.

- ✳ To keep plants out of full summer sun; they need filtered sunlight and free air movement.
- ✳ To remove spent blooms and unwanted “apples” to conserve the plant's vitality.
- ✳ To plant new cuttings during the warm weather, allowing new growth to become established during the growing season.
- ✳ To water hydrids during the hot summer months. Spray occasionally or mist. Do not allow soil to dry out completely.
- ✳ To continue pest and disease preventions using products according to the manufacturers' directions.
- ✳ To fertilize for new growth.

## FERNS

BOB HALLEY, FERN SOCIETY

- ✳ To keep removing old fronds
- ✳ To water frequently, as most ferns are in full growth now. Try to keep humidity up.
- ✳ To fertilize with half-strength high-nitrogen liquid or slow-release pellets.
- ✳ To spray for aphids, thrips, and scale. Keep looking for snails and slugs. Spread bait as needed.
- ✳ To watch for giant white flies. Best treated by wiping off egg spirals.
- ✳ To collect and sow spores. New ones should be coming available regularly.
- ✳ To protect your plants from the hot sun. Very few like full sun these days.

## FRUIT TREES AND VINES

VINCENT LAZANEO, HORT. ADVISOR, UC COOP EXTENSION

- ✳ To monitor soil moisture within the root zone and irrigate when soil begins to dry.
- ✳ To periodically apply enough water to leach salts below plant roots (3 - 4 feet deep).
- ✳ To support limbs that have a heavy fruit load to prevent leakage.
- ✳ To begin harvesting fruit as soon as it is ripe.
- ✳ To remove fruit that is damaged or on the ground to discourage green fruit beetles and other insect scavengers.
- ✳ To prune out shoots killed by fire blight on pear, apple, quince, and loquat. Make cuts at least 12 inches below (if possible) infected tissue and disinfect pruning shears between cuts.
- ✳ To keep ants off trees and periodically wash foliage with a forceful spray of water to promote biological control of spider mites, aphids, whiteflies, scale, and other insects.



# Now is the time

- ✿ To inspect new leaves for signs of zinc and iron deficiency (yellowing between veins). Apply micronutrient spray if needed.
- ✿ To prune out blackberry and raspberry canes that have borne fruit.

## FUCHSIAS

- ✿ To spray to control insects. Orthene will control most pests: aphids, leafhoppers, caterpillars, leaf miners, thrips, and whitefly. Use manufacturers' instructions.
- ✿ To snip off runners for shape and new growth.
- ✿ To prune lightly to encourage more fall blooms.
- ✿ To keep foliage misted. Spray only in the shade or early evening.
- ✿ To avoid over-watering; keep damp, not wet.
- ✿ To fertilize regularly with high phosphorus for buds and bloom.
- ✿ To remove spent blooms and seed pods to encourage more and larger blooms.

## HERBS

JOHN NOBLE

- ✿ To mulch the herb gardens. A good compost will feed the soil and help with saving water.
- ✿ To check the irrigation. Some herbs, such as lavender, sage, rosemary, and aloe, like our dry climate. They do well if the soil dries out between waterings.
- ✿ To spray the garden with a forceful hose. Create a storm that cleans the leaves of dust and dirt along with many insect pests.
- ✿ To soak the soil around the water-loving herbs—yerba mansa, foxglove, comfrey, mugwort, the mints, etc.
- ✿ To harvest your herbs—rosemary, thyme, basil catnip, mullein.
- ✿ To make sun tea with a bouquet of mint, sage, lemon verbena, and dandelion. Add a little lemon and honey if desired.
- ✿ To enjoy the herbs as much as the hummingbirds do.

## IRIS

IRIS SOCIETY

- ✿ To spade and work humus into the soil to revitalize before planting rhizomes.
- ✿ To feed plants left in the ground with a high-nitrogen fertilizer—this one time only.
- ✿ To divide and replant tall bearded iris, taking only the new rhizomes attached to the outer edges of the mother clump. Dust ends of cut rhizomes with soil sulfur.

- ✿ To keep iris beds clean and free of old fans and weeds.
- ✿ To watch for aphids; use a light insecticide or a systemic.
- ✿ To cut off spuria iris foliage, but do not dig until September.

## ORCHIDS

- ✿ To be more vigilant about diagnosing sunburn on your orchids. (July)
- ✿ To continue watering and fertilizing steadily as your plants should all be in active growth. (July)
- ✿ To move warmer indoor growers outside so they can benefit from the moving air and day/night temperature changes. (July)
- ✿ To consider watering in the early evenings if the nighttime temperatures are above 65 degrees Fahrenheit. (July)
- ✿ To add more moss (sparingly) to mounted plants that are showing wrinkly, yellow leaves or other signs of dehydration. (July)
- ✿ To water all mounted plants frequently. (August)
- ✿ To protect more sensitive, cloud forest orchids from heat and dryness (namely, pleurothallids and miltonias) by watering more often and providing more shade. (August)
- ✿ To continue consistently watering and fertilizing all members of your collection (including watering in the early evenings). (August)
- ✿ To monitor the indoor orchids that you moved out for the summer to make sure they're not getting sunburned. (August)
- ✿ To protect your orchids from hailstorms (if we get any) and insects with sucking mouth parts (scale, aphids, cottony mealybugs, spider mites, etc.), using insecticidal soap or pesticide if necessary. (August)

## PELARGONIUMS

CAROL ROLLER

- ✿ To water thoroughly when plants become relatively dry. Do this before the heat of the day. Each watering should moisten the entire soil ball. Excess water should drain away. Keep foliage as dry as possible.
- ✿ To continue feeding a soluble balanced fertilizer with micronutrients. Use at less than the recommended strength as often as needed to keep plants from developing nutritional deficiencies. Water and feed before the heat of

the day. If plants have become very dry, water them, but do not feed at that time.

- ✳️To continue pest control and disease prevention, using products according to the manufacturers' directions.
- ✳️To groom plants, removing discolored leaves and faded flowers. The old bloom stalks on regals, scented, and similar types should be cut away with a sharp blade.
- ✳️To take cuttings from zonals and ivies, if desired. Each cutting should have a healthy growing tip. Trim and insert into a moistened, sterile medium.
- ✳️To protect cuttings and tender plants from the sun if temperatures are high. Move to a sheltered spot or create overhead shade. Keep summer dormant plants dry and away from excessive heat.
- ✳️To continue to rotate pots on a regular basis in order to keep the plants well-shaped.

## PLUMERIA

FRANK ZOTTER

- ✳️To plant cuttings that have calloused over for at least three weeks. Use quick draining soil such as cactus mix. Water well once, then do not water or feed until leaves are about 1 inch.
- ✳️To graft hard-to-root or rare plumeria; sap has to be flowering well in both the scion and rootstock.
- ✳️To fertilize growing plants once a month with low nitrogen and high phosphorous; 1 tablespoon per gallon pot.
- ✳️To water as plants in pots get dry in warm weather. When no moisture is present on the top 2 inches, water until it runs out the bottom. Use no underditch.
- ✳️To place nylon netting or stocking over seed pods to capture seeds when pods open.

## ROSES

- ✳️To flood each basin at least twice, filling each basin with water prior to feeding. This reduces salt buildup. Deep watering is essential. If you are using a drip system, supplement it with deep watering on a monthly basis.
- ✳️To wash off foliage in early morning with a strong spray of water to control mites and keep leaves clean.
- ✳️To maintain beds with organic mulch to keep soil cool and friable.

✳️To practice "finger pruning" by removing small spurs and immature greenery that will not contribute to the growth of the plant but will encourage unwanted insects and disease. Protect new basal growth.

- ✳️To prune lightly in early August to encourage new growth that will lead to blooms through late November.
- ✳️To apply gypsum (calcium sulfate), an inorganic soil amendment. This leaches out insoluble sodium compounds, but only with heavy water penetration. Sprinkle gypsum over entire bed and lightly rake in before flooding.
- ✳️To check out the new varieties available and evaluate them as possible replacements or additions to your garden. Research local gardens for varieties that do well in your area.

## VEGETABLES

VINCENT LAZANEO, HORT. ADVISOR, UC COOP EXTENSION

- ✳️To make a last planting of warm-season vegetables (tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, corn, beans, summer squash) in July for fall harvest.
- ✳️To plant seed of cole crops (cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower) in August for winter harvest.
- ✳️To cover seed with floating row cover to protect young plants from insect pests.
- ✳️To withhold water from rhubarb and artichoke and allow plants to go dormant until fall.
- ✳️To control corn earworm, apply Carbaryl (Sevin) or Bt when silk first emerges, then every three days until silk turns brown.

## VEGETABLES, ANNUALS

UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PUBLICATIONS

- ✳️To put in transplants of peppers (July), African daisies (Arctotis), bachelor's buttons, calliopsis, celosia, cosmos, *Helianthus annuus*, kale (ornamental), African and French marigolds, nicotiana, painted tongue (*Salpiglossis*), petunia, *Scabiosa atropurpurea*, scarlet sage, and Mexican sunflower (*Tithonia*).
- ✳️To put in seeds of beans (snap and pole, lima in July) broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, corn (July), cucumbers (July), lettuce (head), peas, potatoes (August), summer squash, sweet alyssum, centaureas, dianthus, mignonette, annual phlox, portulaca and Virginia stock (Malcomia).

# Good Spiders in the Garden

These summer-blooming white flowers take sun or shade.

BY BETTY NEWTON

Here's a very odd opening sentence. "I am very fond of this flower and its plant and I think you will be too once you learn to recognize it." But I believe this statement brings the problem to your attention. Is it invisible? You don't have a problem like this with a zinnia or a petunia. Your momma probably taught you what to call those flowers when you were a mere child.

Here (as you can see from the picture) we have three pure white, three-and-a-half-inch flowers that open in August. It's not Iceberg rose, but it is almost as useful because of its time of bloom. Its name is part of the problem: *Hymenocallis*. *Hymenocallis* what we're not quite sure. The catalogs use different species names. Sunset writes of *Hymenocallis festalis*.



In sun or shade, this so-called "spider lily" makes 20-inch high clumps of medium-green inch-and-a-half wide, straplike leaves. I first began to recognize *Hymenocallis* (think of a prized body part) when seeing it in a garden at the old Quinta Helena garden of Cynthia Carlson and Dolf Brunetti. There were not only the striking plants themselves blooming in mid-summer heat, but a lesson in acceptable habitat. This is a tropical plant, yet there it was planted on Cottonwood Creek in the Barrett Lake area beyond Dulzura (a little northwest of Tecate). It gets cold there. Perhaps the elegant mobile home

nearby radiated warmth back at night. It was in afternoon shade and full sun. This garden lost a number of plants like *Hypoestes* (lavendar cloud) to cold, so the living evidence tells us that *Hymenocallis* tolerates a few degrees below 32 degrees. We are so spoiled here.

This easygoing spider lily, however, needs water. I will rank it with flashy canna lilies for water needs. And like cannas (it has a short "a" sound as in *apple*), it looks less than lovely over winter. In my decomposed granite bed, white spider lily, where not reached by a broken drip irrigation system, is about to disappear. *Hymenocallis* used to be in the Botanical Lath House in Balboa Park, down at the west end.

More glamorous sister species of *Hymenocallis*, with a more trumpetlike cup, grow here too, both the white and gold yellow. The white I saw at the Rancho Santa Fe garden of Agatha Youngblood was close to four feet tall (it obviously had a little steady nitrogen). I guess I have the same plant here (with white trumpet) blooming at about 12-14 inches. That yellow *Hymenocallis* offered in catalogs either as *Ismene* or *Pancratium* grows in the Fletcher Hills area. With water and with food, it is evergreen, but skimpily clothed in winter (like tall bearded iris and giant amaryllis, *Hippeastrum*). This is a plant you can use with canna lilies, leucojum, baby tears, and maybe rabbit's foot fern for contrast.

Your computer offers a candy store of these bulbs for sale. (I've taken to giving them as gifts to young gardening relatives.) Search for *hymenocallis* nurseries and you will find Oceanside-based Easytogrowbulbs.com. You also find fine photos and, compared with Florida, great prices.

The common spider lily (not a chlorophytum, spider plant) multiplies well. So, once you identify it and decide it would be useful for you, you may be able to get it from a neighbor.

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Betty Newton contributed her first California Garden article (on the Whaley House's new rose garden) in the early 1960s.



## AUGUST CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### August 5 | Saturday

Walter Andersen Nursery Class In the Dirt—Soils and Amendments at Point Loma Store, 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego, at 9:00 a.m. [www.walterandersen.com](http://www.walterandersen.com).

Walter Andersen Nursery Class on Plumerias, Care, and Culture, 9:30 a.m. 12755 Danielson Court, Poway, 858-513-4900. [www.walterandersen.com](http://www.walterandersen.com).

### August 5-6 | Saturday and Sunday

San Diego Dahlia Annual Show. Saturday 1-4 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.—4 p.m. Cut blooms for sale and all show blooms sold on Sunday at end of show. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Contact David J. Tooley, 858-454-6659 or [djsj21643@aol.com](mailto:djsj21643@aol.com).

### August 8 | Tuesday

Monthly meeting, San Diego County Orchid Society. Novice meeting, Room 104, Casa del Prado. General meeting, Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Contact Christopher Croom, 619-583-3804, [www.sdorchids.com](http://www.sdorchids.com).

Monthly meeting, San Diego Geranium Society. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Special speaker, refreshments, and plant raffle. Jim Budlove, 619-287-6299.

### August 12 | Saturday

Walter Andersen Nursery Class on Gardenias—Care and Culture at Point Loma Store, 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego, at 9:00 a.m. [www.walterandersen.com](http://www.walterandersen.com).

Walter Andersen Nursery Class on Summer Flowers, 9:30 a.m. 12755 Danielson Court, Poway, 858-513-4900. [www.walterandersen.com](http://www.walterandersen.com).

### August 19 | Saturday

Walter Andersen Nursery Class on Bonsai—Selection and Care at Point Loma Store, 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego, at 9:00 a.m. [www.walterandersen.com](http://www.walterandersen.com).

Walter Andersen Nursery Class on Fairy Gardening, 9:30 a.m. 12755 Danielson Court, Poway, 858-513-4900. [www.walterandersen.com](http://www.walterandersen.com).

### August 19-20 | Saturday and Sunday

San Diego Fern Society Show and Sale, Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Show hours: Saturday, 12 noon–6 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Sale of rare and unusual ferns on Saturday 10 a.m.–6 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Sherry Worthen, 858-278-2017.

### August 19-27 | Monday-Sunday

Garden Show at 52nd Annual Southern California Home and Garden Show, Anaheim Convention Center, 800 West Katella Avenue, Anaheim. Monday–Thursday: 3–9 p.m., Friday: 12–9 p.m., Saturday: 10 a.m.–9 p.m., Sunday: 10 a.m.–6 p.m. Admission \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors, and \$4 for children ages 6–12; children under 6 are free. [www.southerncaliforniahomeshow.com](http://www.southerncaliforniahomeshow.com)

### August 26 | Saturday

Tour of the Inez Grant Parker Memorial Rose Garden in Balboa Park. Meet at 9:15 a.m. at the north end of the garden located just east of the footbridge on Park Boulevard in Balboa Park. Dick Strecker, one of the founders, will give a short talk on the history and importance of the rose garden, which has been declared one of the 16 best public rose gardens of the world. Consulting rosarians will lead groups of about 15 people on different routes throughout the garden for about 45 minutes. Contact Linda and Herb Hitney, [hitney@juno.com](mailto:hitney@juno.com).

Walter Andersen Nursery Class on Garden Problems, Products, and Solutions at Point Loma Store, 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego, at 9:00 a.m. [www.walterandersen.com](http://www.walterandersen.com).

Walter Andersen Nursery Class on Herbs, 9:30 a.m. 12755 Danielson Court, Poway, 858-513-4900. [www.walterandersen.com](http://www.walterandersen.com).

### August 26-27 | Saturday and Sunday

Hon Non Bo Association Annual Show and Plant Sale, Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Saturday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Brenda Storey, 858-722-4970.

### August 27 | Sunday

Open meeting, Southern California Plumeria Society, 1–3 p.m., Room 207, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Free. Joy Herzog, 619-443-4795 or Frank Zotter, 858-565-4597. [www.southerncaliforniaplumeriasociety.com](http://www.southerncaliforniaplumeriasociety.com).



Deadline for submissions to horticultural calendar for September/October issue is July 20. Email event info to [calendar@sdfloal.org](mailto:calendar@sdfloal.org). San Diego Floral Association is not responsible for last-minute changes or any information submitted late by the organizations.

# July 2006

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY   | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY                                       | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY  | SATURDAY   |
|--|--|--|---|--|---|--|
|  |  |  |   |  |   | <b>1</b><br>Plant Clinic with the Master Gardeners of San Diego, Water Conservation Garden<br><br>Walter Andersen Nursery Classes Repotting Cymbidium Orchids (Point Loma) and Water Gardens (Poway) |
| <b>2</b>   | <b>3</b>   | <b>4</b>   | <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b><br><br>Monthly meeting of the San Diego County Orchid Society | <b>7</b>  | <b>8</b><br><br>Walter Andersen Nursery Class on Summer Lawn Care (Point Loma) and Controlling Critters (Poway)  |
| <b>9</b>   | <b>10</b><br><br>"Carnivorous Plants: The Threat of their Extinction" by horticulturist James Booman<br><br>Garden Discovery Camp for Kids | <b>11</b><br><br>Monthly Meeting, San Diego Geranium Society<br><br>Garden Discovery Camp for Kids | <b>12</b><br><br>Garden Discovery Camp for Kids | <b>13</b><br><br>Garden Discovery Camp for Kids                        | <b>14</b><br><br>Garden Discovery Camp for Kids | <b>15</b><br><br>Xeriscape: Beautiful Landscape on a Low-Water Budget<br><br>Walter Andersen Nursery Class on Plumeria Care—Hopefully Grafting (Point Loma) and Fairy Furniture (Poway)              |
| <b>16</b><br><br>Basics of Irrigation Design at Water Conservation Garden<br><br>Charles O'Herin book signing at Walter Andersen Nursery (Poway)   | <b>17</b>  | <b>18</b>  | <b>19</b>                                       | <b>20</b>  | <b>21</b>                                       | <b>22</b><br><br>San Diego County Orchid Society Mini-Show and Orchid Plant Sale<br><br>Walter Andersen Nursery Class on Water Gardens (Point Loma) and Fairy Furniture, part II (Poway)             |
| <b>23/30</b><br><br>San Diego County Orchid Society Mini-Show and Orchid Plant Sale (23rd)<br><br>Open meeting, Southern California Plumeria Society (23rd)<br><br>Irrigation System Maintenance and Water Management (23rd) | <b>24/31</b>   | <b>25</b>  | <b>26</b>                                       | <b>27</b>  | <b>28</b>                                       | <b>29</b><br><br>Walter Andersen Nursery Class on Staghorn Ferns: Care, Dividing, and Remounting (Point Loma) and Orchids: Care, Culture, Repotting, Mounting (Poway)                                |

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### August 19 | Saturday

Walter Andersen Nursery Class on Bonsai—Selection and Care at Point Loma Store, 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego, at 9:00 a.m. [www.walterandersen.com](http://www.walterandersen.com).

Walter Andersen Nursery Class on Fairy Gardening, 9:30 a.m. 12755 Danielson Court, Poway, 858-513-4900. [www.walterandersen.com](http://www.walterandersen.com).

### August 19-20 | Saturday and Sunday

San Diego Fern Society Show and Sale, Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Show hours: Saturday, 12 noon-6 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sale of rare and unusual ferns on Saturday 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sherry Worthen, 858-278-2017.

### August 19-27 | Monday-Sunday

Garden Show at 52nd Annual Southern California Home and Garden Show, Anaheim Convention Center, 800 West Katella Avenue, Anaheim. Monday-Thursday: 3-9 p.m., Friday: 12-9 p.m., Saturday: 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Sunday: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Admission \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors, and \$4 for children ages 6-12; children under 6 are free. [www.southerncaliforniahomeshow.com](http://www.southerncaliforniahomeshow.com)

### August 26 | Saturday

Tour of the Inez Grant Parker Memorial Rose Garden in Balboa Park. Meet at 9:15 a.m. at the north end of the garden located just east of the footbridge on Park Boulevard in Balboa Park. Dick Streeper, one of the founders, will give a short talk on the history and importance of the rose garden, which has been declared one of the 16 best public rose gardens of the world. Consulting rosarians will lead groups of about 15 people on different routes throughout the garden for about 45 minutes. Contact Linda and Herb Hitney, [hitney@juno.com](mailto:hitney@juno.com).

Walter Andersen Nursery Class on Garden Problems, Products, and Solutions at Point Loma Store, 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego, at 9:00 a.m. [www.walterandersen.com](http://www.walterandersen.com).

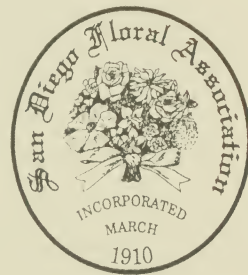
Walter Andersen Nursery Class on Herbs, 9:30 a.m. 12755 Danielson Court, Poway, 858-513-4900. [www.walterandersen.com](http://www.walterandersen.com).

### August 26-27 | Saturday and Sunday

Hon Non Bo Association Annual Show and Plant Sale, Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Brenda Storey, 858-722-4970.

### August 27 | Sunday

Open meeting, Southern California Plumeria Society, 1-3 p.m., Room 207, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Free. Joy Herzog, 619-443-4795 or Frank Zotter, 858-565-4597. [www.southerncaliforniaplumeriasociety.com](http://www.southerncaliforniaplumeriasociety.com).



Deadline for submissions to horticultural calendar for September/October issue is July 20. Email event info to [calendar@sdfloal.org](mailto:calendar@sdfloal.org). San Diego Floral Association is not responsible for last-minute changes or any information submitted late by the organizations.

# July 2006

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY   | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY                                       | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY  | SATURDAY   |
|--|--|--|---|--|---|--|
|  |  |  |   |  |   | <b>1</b><br>Plant Clinic with the Master Gardeners of San Diego, Water Conservation Garden<br><br>Walter Andersen Nursery Classes Repotting Cymbidium Orchids (Point Loma) and Water Gardens (Poway) |
| <b>2</b>   | <b>3</b>   | <b>4</b>   | <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b><br><br>Monthly meeting of the San Diego County Orchid Society | <b>7</b>  | <b>8</b><br><br>Walter Andersen Nursery Class on Summer Lawn Care (Point Loma) and Controlling Critters (Poway)  |
| <b>9</b>   | <b>10</b><br><br>"Carnivorous Plants: The Threat of their Extinction" by horticulturist James Booman<br><br>Garden Discovery Camp for Kids | <b>11</b><br><br>Monthly Meeting, San Diego Geranium Society<br><br>Garden Discovery Camp for Kids | <b>12</b><br><br>Garden Discovery Camp for Kids | <b>13</b><br><br>Garden Discovery Camp for Kids                        | <b>14</b><br><br>Garden Discovery Camp for Kids | <b>15</b><br><br>Xeriscape: Beautiful Landscape on a Low-Water Budget<br><br>Walter Andersen Nursery Class on Plumeria Care—Hopefully Grafting (Point Loma) and Fairy Furniture (Poway)              |
| <b>16</b><br><br>Basics of Irrigation Design at Water Conservation Garden<br><br>Charles O'Herin book signing at Walter Andersen Nursery (Poway)   | <b>17</b>  | <b>18</b>  | <b>19</b>                                       | <b>20</b>  | <b>21</b>                                       | <b>22</b><br><br>San Diego County Orchid Society Mini-Show and Orchid Plant Sale<br><br>Walter Andersen Nursery Class on Water Gardens (Point Loma) and Fairy Furniture, part II (Poway)             |
| <b>23/30</b><br><br>San Diego County Orchid Society Mini-Show and Orchid Plant Sale (23rd)<br><br>Open meeting, Southern California Plumeria Society (23rd)<br><br>Irrigation System Maintenance and Water Management (23rd) | <b>24/31</b>   | <b>25</b>  | <b>26</b>                                       | <b>27</b>  | <b>28</b>                                       | <b>29</b><br><br>Walter Andersen Nursery Class on Staghorn Ferns: Care, Dividing, and Remounting (Point Loma) and Orchids: Care, Culture, Repotting, Mounting (Poway)                                |



# August 2006

| SUNDAY  | MONDAY | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY  |
|---|--------|--|-----------|----------|--------|---|
|   |        | 1  | 2         | 3        | 4      | 5<br>Walter Andersen Nursery<br>Class In the Dirt—Soils and<br>Amendments (Point Loma) and<br>Plumerias, Care, and Culture<br>(Poway)<br><br>San Diego Dahlia Annual Show   |
| 6<br><br>San Diego Dahlia<br>Annual Show  | 7      | 8<br><br>Monthly meeting, San Diego<br>County Orchid Society | 9         | 10       | 11     | 12<br><br>Walter Andersen Nursery<br>Class on Gardenias—Care<br>and Culture (Point Loma)<br>and Summer Flowers<br>(Poway)   |
| 13  | 14     | 15   | 16        | 17       | 18     | 19<br><br>Walter Andersen Nursery<br>Class on Bonsai—Selection<br>and Care (Point Loma) and<br>Fairy Gardening (Poway)<br><br>San Diego Fern Society<br>Show and Sale   |
| 20<br><br>San Diego Fern Society Show<br>and Sale   | 21     | 22   | 23        | 24       | 25     | 26<br><br>Tour of the Inez Grant Parker<br>Memorial Rose Garden<br><br>Walter Andersen Nursery Class<br>on Garden Problems, Products,<br>and Solutions (Point Loma) and<br>Herbs (Poway)<br><br>Hon Non Bo Association Show |
| 27<br><br>Hon Non Bo Association<br>Annual Show and Plant Sale<br><br>Open meeting, Southern<br>California Plumeria Society | 28     | 29   | 30        | 31       |        |   |

## JULY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### July 1 | Saturday

Plant Clinic with the Master Gardeners of San Diego, 12–4 p.m. Bring in plant clippings for identification and disease diagnosis and learn which “pests” are good or bad. Free. Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon, CA 92019, 619-660-6841, [www.thegarden.org](http://www.thegarden.org).

Walter Andersen Nursery Class on Repotting Cymbidium Orchids at Point Loma Store, 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego, at 9:00 a.m. [www.walterandersen.com](http://www.walterandersen.com).

Walter Andersen Nursery Class on Water Gardens, 12755 Danielson Court, Poway, CA 92110, 858-513-4900, at 9:30 a.m. [www.walterandersen.com](http://www.walterandersen.com).

### July 6 | Thursday

Monthly meeting of the San Diego County Orchid Society, Novice Meeting, Room 104, Casa del Prado, and 7:30 p.m., General Meeting, Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Christopher Croom, 619-583-3804, [www.sdorchids.com](http://www.sdorchids.com).

### July 8 | Saturday

Walter Andersen Nursery Class on Summer Lawn Care at Point Loma Store, 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego, at 9:00 a.m. [www.walterandersen.com](http://www.walterandersen.com).

Walter Andersen Nursery Class on Controlling Critters, 12755 Danielson Court, Poway, 858-513-4900, at 9:30 a.m. [www.walterandersen.com](http://www.walterandersen.com).

### July 10 | Monday

“Carnivorous Plants: The Threat of their Extinction” by horticulturist James Booman. Free. Sponsored by San Diego Horticultural Society. 6:00 p.m. at Surfside Race Place at the Del Mar Fairgrounds on Jimmy Durante Blvd. in Del Mar. 760-730-3268 or [www.sdhortsoc.org](http://www.sdhortsoc.org).

### July 10-14 | Monday-Friday

Garden Discovery Camp for Kids (ages 8–12). From water to worms, kids will learn how plants and veggies grow, discover the importance of creepy crawly critters in the garden, and enter their bugs into the “Great American Bug Race.” All sessions include a snack and all materials are included. Members: \$100 for all five days or \$25/session; Nonmembers: \$125 for all 5 days, or \$30/session. Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon, CA 92019, 619-660-6841, [www.thegarden.org](http://www.thegarden.org).

### July 11 | Tuesday

Monthly Meeting, San Diego Geranium Society, Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, 7 p.m. Annual potluck and plant raffle. Jim Budlove, 619-287-6299.

### July 15 | Saturday

Xeriscape: Beautiful Landscape on a Low-Water Budget. Landscape designer Jan Tubiolo takes the mystery out of xeriscape landscaping and shows you why Xeriscape is not “Zeroscape”! Learn the seven principles of xeriscape, plant selection, and planting techniques. The workshop includes a classroom lecture and an interpretive tour of the xeriscape garden. \$10 members, \$13 nonmembers. Please preregister: 10-student minimum to hold class. 9:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m. Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon, CA 92019, 619-660-6841, [www.thegarden.org](http://www.thegarden.org).

Walter Andersen Nursery Class on Plumeria Care—Hopefully Grafting at Point Loma Store, 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego, at 9:00 a.m. [www.walterandersen.com](http://www.walterandersen.com).

Walter Andersen Nursery Class on Fairy Furniture, a paid workshop with Artist Suja Pritchard. Max of 15 adults paired with 15 children, \$15 materials fee. 9:30 a.m. 12755 Danielson Court, Poway, 858-513-4900. [www.walterandersen.com](http://www.walterandersen.com).

### July 16 | Sunday

Basics of Irrigation Design. Don Schultz, Facilities Manager and Certified Irrigation Auditor, covers the key points of irrigation design. The discussion will include planning and hardware selection, and there will be time for questions and answers. Members, \$5; Nonmembers, \$8. Please preregister; 10-student minimum to hold class. Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon, CA 92019, 619-660-6841, [www.thegarden.org](http://www.thegarden.org).

Book signing at Walter Andersen Nursery in Poway. Charles O’Herin, garden railroad enthusiast, will sign copies of Prototypes for Modelers: Volume 1, San Diego and Arizona Railway, Noon–2 p.m., 12755 Danielson Court, Poway. Contact Melanie Potter at 858-513-4900.

### July 22-23 | Saturday and Sunday

San Diego County Orchid Society Mini-Show and Orchid Plant Sale Saturday, 11 a.m.–4 p.m.; Sunday 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Contact Genie Hammond, 619-426-6831, [www.sdorchids.com](http://www.sdorchids.com).

### July 22 | Saturday

Walter Andersen Nursery Class on Water Gardens at Point Loma Store, 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego, at 9:00 a.m. [www.walterandersen.com](http://www.walterandersen.com).

Walter Andersen Nursery Class on Fairy Furniture, part II, a paid workshop with Artist Suja Pritchard. Max of 15 adults paired with 15 children, \$15 materials fee. 9:30 a.m. 12755 Danielson Court, Poway, 858-513-4900. [www.walterandersen.com](http://www.walterandersen.com).

### July 23 | Sunday

Open meeting, Southern California Plumeria Society, 1–3 p.m., Room 207, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Free. Joy Herzog, 619-443-4795 or Frank Zotter, 858-565-4597. [www.southerncaliforniaplumeriasociety.com](http://www.southerncaliforniaplumeriasociety.com).

Irrigation System Maintenance and Water Management. Don Schultz, certified irrigation auditor and The Garden’s facilities manager, guides you through the important dos and don’ts of irrigation system maintenance and water management. Topics include sprinkler maintenance and techniques for evaluating and managing your watering schedule. \$5 members, \$8 nonmembers. Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon, CA 92019, 619-660-6841, [www.thegarden.org](http://www.thegarden.org).

### July 29 | Saturday

Walter Andersen Nursery Class on Staghorn Ferns: Care, Dividing, and Remounting at Point Loma Store, 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego, at 9:00 a.m. [www.walterandersen.com](http://www.walterandersen.com).

Walter Andersen Nursery Class on Orchids: Care, Culture, Reporting, Mounting. Special guest speakers: Bud Close, Charlie Fouquette. 9:30 a.m. 12755 Danielson Court, Poway, 858-513-4900. [www.walterandersen.com](http://www.walterandersen.com).

## ONGOING EVENTS

### LOCAL GARDENING TELEVISION PROGRAMS

*Down to Earth* with Tom Piergrosi, daily at 11:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. on CTN, Time Warner 22, Cox 19 or 24, and Adelphia 66

*A Growing Passion* with Nan Sterman on KPBS channel 15/cable 11. Check [www.agrowingpassion.com](http://www.agrowingpassion.com) for schedules.

### BALBOA PARK SAN DIEGO ZOO

Plant Day at the Zoo, third Friday of each month. See approximately 700,000 plants. Orchid Greenhouse opens to the public 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Take a free botanically themed bus tour at 2 p.m. starting at the Orchid Greenhouse. Free with general admission.

### SAN DIEGO JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN

Open Tues. thru Sun. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Docent tours with reservations. Fee. 619-232-2721.

**OFFSHOOT TOURS**  
Volunteer-guided. Various topics. Saturdays 10:00 a.m. Meet at Visitors Center. 619-235-1121. Free.

**INTERPRETIVE WALKS**  
Volunteer-guided. History-oriented topics. Meet at Visitors Center. Tuesdays and Sundays at 1:00 p.m. Free.

### ONGOING EVENTS

**BLUE SKY ECOLOGICAL RESERVE** Walks. Poway. Sat. & Sun. 9:00 a.m. 858-679-5469.

**CUYAMACA COLLEGE** The Water Conservation Garden is home to 4+ acres of beautiful, award-winning, low-water-use landscaping and educational displays. Docent-led tours Saturdays 10:30 a.m. and

Sundays 1:30 p.m. 619-660-0614. Check website calendar for classes and special events at [www.thegarden.org](http://www.thegarden.org). Free.

### QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS

Open daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Call for times on docent-led garden tours, weekly or monthly events, and classes for kids and adults. Free composting class 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. first Saturday of the month. Bird-watching first Monday of every month 8:00 a.m. Discover the many birds at QBG. 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas. 760-436-3036 or [www.qbgardens.com](http://www.qbgardens.com). General admission.

**SAN DIEGO CHINESE HISTORICAL MUSEUM AND GARDEN** Exquisite Asian garden. 404 Third Ave., San Diego. Tues.-Sat. 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Sun. 12-4 p.m. Free.

### SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Canyon Walks. Sat-Sun. Sept.-June. 619-232-3821, ext. 203 or [www.sdnhm.org](http://www.sdnhm.org) for locations, times, and directions. Free.

**SAN DIEGO ZOO ORCHID ODYSSEY** Third Friday of every month from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., showcasing orchids from Papua New Guinea, Central and South America, Africa, Thailand, Australia, China, and Vietnam. Free with Zoo admission.

**THE HUNTINGTON** is open Tuesday through Friday noon to 4:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Closed Monday and most holidays. \$15 adults, \$12 seniors, \$10 students (12-18), \$6 youth (5-11) under 5 and members free. Group rate(10+) \$11. 626-405-2100 or [www.huntington.org](http://www.huntington.org).

**WALKABOUT INTERNATIONAL** Local guided walks. Newsletter. 619-231-SHOE. Free.

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# BREATH MINTS NOT INCLUDED



Onions and garlic  
make terrific meals for summer.

BY BOB HORWITZ

Onions in man's diet is as old as man himself. The ancient Sumerians and Egyptians ate onions as a regular part of their diet mixed in with whatever grain they had. In those days, onion breath was not the taboo it is today. But then, most earthy and human odors were part of everyday life and the soap and perfume industry had not started their campaign for fastidiousness. The Chinese and ancient Greeks and Romans held onions and garlic to be essential to their diets. Cuisine was invented in those days—and what would cuisine be without onions and garlic?

Garlic has always been a food and remedy, both magical and medical. Where people used garlic the most, the upper classes, priests and kings, aristocrats, and politicians created taboos against its use, but the ordinary people got it and used it with gusto.

The onion is a redolent member of the lily family with many outstanding relatives, such as scallions, chives, shallots, and, of course, garlic. Its own siblings include the Bermuda onion, purple onion, Walla-Walla, Vidalia, yellow, white, and Maui.

It has been said that food without onions and garlic is like a day without sunshine. This is surely true today. Just look at many of the recipes of famous chefs that fill the cookbooks and invariably they call for onions and garlic.

You can grow onions all year-round in areas that are frost-free. Start with seeds or already sprouted plants from sets or pony packs. In the colder areas, wait until spring.

Garlic and shallots are usually grown from bulbs. Leeks and chives are also grown from seeds. However you start them in your garden, they are easy to grow. Sow the seeds in a straight line about an inch or two apart. It may take up to several weeks before the shoots appear, so be patient. Bulbs should be spaced four to six inches apart.

Soil for these plants should be loose and well-drained. Considerable humus in the soil is beneficial. Make sure they are adequately watered and, after growth has started, fertilize every two weeks with a balanced vegetable fertilizer like 5-10-5.

Young shoots, called scallions, are ready to pull up and use when the bulb gets to be about a quarter- to a half-inch across. The whole plant, except the roots, is edible. If you let them grow to maturity, the tops will eventually dry up and it's then time to harvest. Leeks should be harvested when the long bulbs are three-quarters to an inch across and the leaves are still green. After leeks start to grow vigorously, mound a few inches of dirt around the base of the bulb. This causes the leaves to be blanched.

After harvesting the mature onions, you can store them in a cool, dark place for as long as six months. This applies to all except leeks, which should be used soon after harvesting.

Here are two recipes you may want to try using for your garden produce.

### Vichyssoise

- 2 large leeks (or you can substitute two medium onions)
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 2 medium baking potatoes
- 2 cups chicken stock
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon white pepper
- ½ cup sour cream

Cut the leeks the long way and wash out any dirt or grit. Remove the tough upper part of the green leaves. Finely chop the remainder of the leeks. Heat the butter in a two-quart pot. Add the leeks and sauté until tender. Don't burn them. Peel and cut the potatoes into a one-inch dice. Add the potatoes, stock, salt, and pepper to the pot. Simmer under low heat for 30 minutes. Let cool. Then blend in a blender until smooth. Refrigerate until time to serve. Serve in soup bowls and garnish with sour cream and chives. Serve with garlic toast and a fruity white wine. What a great summer lunch!

### Chicken Legs Stuffed with Onions

- 4 leg-thigh combination pieces of chicken
- 2 large yellow onions
- 1 cup diced mushrooms
- 1 clove garlic, mashed
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon pepper
- ½ teaspoon dried thyme
- 1 tablespoon olive oil

Slit the sides of the chicken pieces to make as big a cavity as you can between meat and skin. Mix all the other ingredients except the oil together. Stuff the chicken pieces with the stuffing. Sauté the stuffed legs in the olive oil until light brown on both sides. Use some additional salt gently applied to the outside of the chicken. Cover and simmer until done, about 45 minutes. Serve with cooked rice that has been garnished with the pan juices.

*Robert Horwitz is a retired space engineer who gardens in the Point Loma section of San Diego.*

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# The Water Conservation Garden

BY VIRGINIA MAPLES INNIS

## Find out just what our climate can do in this spectacular resource.

The Water Conservation Garden is everything the name suggests. The 4.3-acre garden is located in San Diego County on the campus of Cuyamaca College. It is a drought-tolerant, water-wise xeriscape garden. It is a nonprofit garden with free entry and parking.

The Water Conservation Garden opened in 1999 and is open seven days a week from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. It is closed only on major holidays. It has extended hours in the summer.

Each year, the San Diego County Fair has a xeriscape garden among its many gardens. When the Fair closes, the garden isn't on exhibit until the next year. This is somewhat like the village in the musical *Brigadoon*. Because of this, we can all enjoy the larger, permanent garden that is open year-round.

The 1990s were dry years in San Diego County. Water suppliers realized that the public needed help in learning to use less water, starting in the garden. The Water Conservation Garden fulfills a need.

During the dry years, H. Warren Buckner was on the board of the Helix Water District stressing good water use. Over 25 years ago, Buckner and his son, Michael, built a demonstration garden at the Helix Water District headquarters on Spring St. in La Mesa.

Michael Buckner thinks that his father's mind was seeded by the demonstrative garden. Afterward, the senior Buckner envisioned a larger, better garden—a Water Conservation Garden.

The senior Buckner talked and inspired. When the Water Conservation Garden became a

possibility, Buckner served on its board for six years as its president. Although he credits the help of many individuals, Buckner has been recognized as instrumental in getting the garden started.

Originally, the Garden was started by the Helix Water District, the Otay Water District, and the Grossmont-Cuyamaca College District. They were later joined by the Padre Dam Water District, the San Diego Water Authority, and the city of San Diego. It is that group that comprises

the power structure that administers the garden. At the time of the Garden's formation, gifts and donations helped make the Garden possible. Despite its location, the Garden is not a department of Cuyamaca College.

In the years since the Garden opened, it has matured into a beautiful place where something is in bloom all the time. When it is the season, date palms are laden with fruit.

San Diego has a Mediterranean climate, described as wet, cool winters and hot, dry summers. The Garden has Mediterranean plants from around the globe, with a large section of California-native plants.

The Garden has as features a wildlife garden, a white garden, and a vegetable garden in a raised bed. There is an exhibit of irrigation equipment. Turf is presented as ground cover. There are examples of composting and mulching. There are samples of materials to add to garden soils.

The Garden has information on landscaping, including education for children. There are workshops and Saturday seminars. Many of the offerings are for those who hold a garden membership or pay a fee.

When groups visit the Garden, most request a volunteer docent to lead the way. Regular free tours are scheduled for 10:30 a.m. on Saturdays and 1:30 p.m. on Sundays.

Self-tours are popular as well. Almost all plants have name labels. Signs are where there are exhibits or activities. Obtainable from the Garden bookstore is a plant identification list with a map, at the printing

cost of 25 cents. Information indicates if an item is a plant, shrub, or tree.

The Garden bookstore has much to offer. The topics covered in the books reflect the Garden's content and intent. Books are on native plants, xeriscape gardens, gardening, and more. The bookstore has Garden-related items (like *California Garden* magazine) and the store sells plants—lots of plants!

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*"Starting drought-tolerant plants calls for lots of water until the plants become established. Sometimes, it takes two years or more for a plant, shrub, or tree to use less water."*

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## THE WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN

12122 Cuyamaca College Dr. West

El Cajon, CA 92019

phone: 619-660-0614

fax: 619-660-1694

[www.thegarden.org](http://www.thegarden.org)

In the fall of 2005, the Garden had a successful plant sale. In the spring of 2006, the sale was expanded. Along with local vendors, out-of-county and out-of-state nurseries were added. Two bands played live music, food vendors came, and the event had a festival-like atmosphere.

On a day of rain, there was a crowd. Weeks later, the garden had a spring festival. Marty Eberhardt, executive director of the Garden, said these plant sales and festivals will continue in the future.

Most of the plant vendors deal in drought-tolerant, xeriscape plants, and sales make it possible for the public to obtain plants previously difficult to find.

Mrs. Jeri Moore of the Point Loma Garden Club brought a group to the Garden and obtained a volunteer docent, Rosalie Dosik, who told everyone what Moore called "nice-to-know information" about starting drought-tolerant, xeriscape plants.

According to Dosik, "Starting drought-tolerant plants calls for lots of water until the plants become established. Sometimes, it takes two years or more for a plant, shrub, or tree to use less water."

Beyond the Garden's front parking lot and a distance across the street is Cuyamaca College's open-to-the-public nursery. Students propagate from the Garden and some of the plants come from classroom activity.

Students staff the nursery and the store manager is a student. Profits from the nursery benefit the college and go to purchase horticulture equipment, supplies, magazines, and field trips.

Cuyamaca College is a two-year college known for its horticulture program. Some of the local garden clubs donate toward student scholarships.

The Garden is located beyond the San Diego city limits. It is reached by taking 94 East from San Diego. In La Mesa, the 94 joins Highway 125, and 94 continues through Spring Valley. Stay on 94, but go forward onto Jamaca Road. Don't take 94 when it turns to Campo Road. You will be in El Cajon, but the area is called Rancho San Diego. From Jamaca Road, take Cuyamaca College Drive West—it is a short distance to the Garden. Don't take Jamaca Road as it goes to the college. From Interstate 8 in El Cajon, you can take Highway 54 West, which turns into Jamaca Road. From there, take Cuyamaca College Drive West.

The Garden is an affiliate of the San Diego Floral Association.

*Virginia Innis is a member of the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society, a past president of San Diego Floral Association, and an expert on floral design.*

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# REVIEWS

## PERENNIALS FOR THE SOUTHWEST: PLANTS THAT FLOURISH IN ARID GARDENS

BY MARY IRISH  
TIMBER PRESS

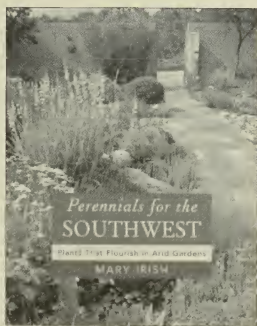
\$29.95; 292 pages; hardcover

*Arid* is the operative word for the gardening described in this book. It will appeal most to those living in the southern and eastern areas of San Diego county, as it presents a huge variety of plant material from south of the border, as well as the usual drought tolerant species found in local nurseries.

The author gardens in the Arizona portion of the Sonoran desert and considers plants requiring irrigation more than three times a month as marginal compared to those getting by on less. Acknowledging the wide variety of exposure, climate, and soil conditions found in "arid" areas, she presents many ideas for designing gardens that will look good and do well.

Massing perennials maximizes the effect of their colorful blooms, as shown in many of the color photos. Combining succulents with smaller perennials and the use of containers are also featured. Chapters with general information on pruning, propagation, insects, and diseases are included.

Local readers may be most intrigued with the plant encyclopedia in the second section. It contains many familiar genera but with species from Mexico and Central America as well as the Midwest of this county offering new shapes and colors.



Here and especially in the final chapter on Uncommon Perennials may be found the inspiration for new plant quests. Color photos illustrate each plant description, which also includes complete information regarding size, blooming period, exposure, and hardiness, as well as a discussion of specific growing conditions.—MARJORIE HOWARD JONES

## FROM GRASS TO GARDENS: HOW TO REAP BOUNTY FROM A SMALL YARD

BY JANET LEMKE  
THE LYONS PRESS  
\$16.95; paperback; 221  
pages

There are gardeners who garden for the effect and those who just love plants. Be it flowers or vegetables, those in the latter group can't tell you enough about where the plants came from, how they grew, how other people have used them, and what grew in the past but is no longer there. Janet Lemke obviously is one of this breed; all her gardening experiences are precious to her and she is eager to share.

Bursting with enthusiasm, this chatty volume can read more like a history or biography than a gardening text. There are no pictures in the graphic sense, just those drawn in well-chosen words, filled with humor and down-to-earth reminiscences. Her story begins with her

hope for a tomato patch in a tiny plot beyond her basement apartment window. When her crop succeeds beyond her wildest dreams, it is to the primary benefit of marauding squirrels and a presumptuous landlady. From here, the story moves to a small fixer-upper house in Staunton, Virginia, where the only growing grounds are in small strips that she initially grasses over. All this is prelude to her discovery that lawns are a waste of time, and from here on out, after a lengthy discourse on why and how grass has become such a gardening fixation, she moves on to the other

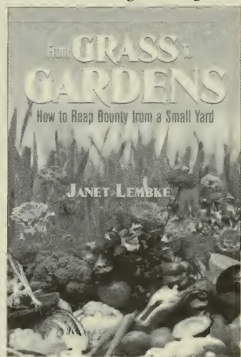
gardens she has known and loved.

Subsequent chapters discuss flowers and veggies, with recipes for such delicacies as raisin cookies made from chestnut squash and some really incendiary chili sauces. A chapter on tools includes composting and raised beds as necessary gardening aids, while the section on weeds contains good advice for

dealing with these and other garden pests.

The most unusual chapter investigates garden deities and spirits, such as "devas" and "the green man." Those who consider their nurture of plants as part of an ancient ritual value these myths and legends as givers of energy to the garden and the gardener. According to this author, "gardens have minds of their own and are inhabited by a nervous green energy that is connected . . . with the divine." Believe it or not, this concept might explain the mysteries that often unfold in the garden!

A listing of sources for plants and equipment is found at the back of the book, followed by notes identifying the many literary and informational references scattered throughout the text.—JEAN HUGHES



## RHODODENDRONS & AZALEAS: A COLOUR GUIDE

BY KENNETH COX  
THE CROWOOD PRESS, LTD.

\$65.00; hardcover; 240 pages

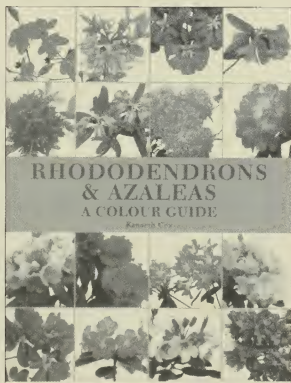
As the title will suggest, here we have a U.K. import. The fact that this is called a color guide, however, is indicative of the extensive illustrations—so extensive that the book is almost a glorified catalogue, in fact. For our (San Diego gardeners) purposes, however, you might as well skip the first half of the book covering rhododendrons, unless you're a horticultural masochist or planning a move to the Pacific Northwest, one of the few places on this coast where these plants thrive.

There is one exception: the section on the tropical Southeast Asian *Vireya* species

and hybrids (pp. 73–79), which need a frostless environment and so are perfect for the coastal Southern California climate, if not its alkaline water (see below). The second half of the book, covering azaleas, will be somewhat helpful to those wishing to try their luck with the evergreen types, such as the *Tsutsuji*, *Satsuki*, Belgian, and Southern *Indicas* (pp. 196–225), many of which were developed by Nuccio's

in Altadena, California. With either of these plants, remember that they will not tolerate the slightest hint of alkaline water or soil, making growing them a far greater challenge than camellias. Acid, acid, and more acid. Take your chances or use this as an armchair gardening tome, if at all.—

FREDRIK LILJEBLAD



## PERENNIAL GARDEN DESIGN

BY MICHAEL KING  
TIMBER PRESS

\$34.95; hardcover; 192 pages

Michael King is a garden designer, photographer, and author who operates a garden advice bureau in Amsterdam. He worked previously as secretary to the board of trustees at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew.

The first part of this beautifully illustrated book discusses the principals of good garden design and shows how herbaceous perennials can add, in addition to color, character to a garden. It is not a catalog of perennials. The author points out that a garden is always located within a specific cultural context, e.g., national identity and climate, which greatly affect the type of suitable garden design. In addition, factors the author calls context and art also dominate design. A garden's design has to fit the context of the buildings it

surrounds; it may extend living space into the outdoors or provide a setting for the architecture. The world outside the garden, whether it is a city or countryside, formal or informal, also influences the selection of an appropriate design. In the section on planting design, King considers the underlying structure of a garden:

the presence or absence of walls, paths, lawns, or open water combined with trees, shrubs, lawns, or hedges to provide the three-dimensional space. He suggests always providing a threshold, or entry, into a garden. He often incorporates a pavilion,

or other structure, to provide a focal point.

In subsequent sections, he discusses design choices and opportunities in-depth, with sections on seasonal themes, together with planting themes for entrance gardens, groundcovers,

ferns, waterside perennials, and ornamental grasses. The photographs are wonderful and illustrate the design principles very well. For translation to gardens in the San Diego area, one limitation is the use of many plants that require substantial chill times (such as tulips); another limitation is that many of the pictured gardens are very large and thus hard to compare to residential gardens in this area. Overall, though, the illustrated gardens are quite inspirational with extensive use of various euphorbias and salvias, which thrive in our local climate.—KARIN KRATZ

## INTIMATE GARDENS

BY C. COLSTON BURRELL WITH LUCY HARDIMAN

BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN  
\$9.95; paperback; 120 pages

Most people who are setting out to create a garden for a new house, or to revitalize an existing property, face the challenge of making their paradise in a relatively small space. We also want a sense of privacy and enclosure. We long





# REVIEWS

for a stronger connection with the natural world and find it in the garden.

We want a place to entertain or relax outdoors and gardens that function as outdoor rooms can fulfill this need.

The elements of an intimate garden include well-proportioned spaces, a comfortable sense of enclosure, and captivating plants. The authors guide us through shape, scale, and proportion and the materials needed to establish the enclosure process. They offer a complete guide to creating a simple formal terrace garden, a shady woodland garden, and a sunny courtyard garden. A chapter on furnishing an intimate garden suggests herbaceous plants, garden furniture, versatile containers, water features, and playful ornaments to enhance the garden. The remaining 60 pages of the book are an excellent encyclopedia of plants to be used in the intimate garden. It includes 30 evergreen and deciduous shrubs, 30 evergreen and deciduous trees, a list of outstanding vines, herbaceous perennials, and groundcovers. Each plant includes a description of native habitat and range, hardiness and cultivated range, landscape form, uses, ornamental attributes, tolerances, growing tips, and cultivars and related species. The plants have been chosen to provide a wide range of forms, colors, and textures. A list of perennials, vines, and groundcovers is located at the end of the book. They provide a map of USDA Plant Hardiness Zones.

Other books in the series are *Designing an Herb Garden*; *Pruning Trees, Shrubs, and Vines*; *The Potted Garden*; *Japanese Inspired Gardens*; and *The Natural Water Garden*. Information on how to order these books is included.—Kay Harry

## CEANOTHUS

BY DAVID FROSS AND DIETER WILKEN  
TIMBER PRESS

\$39.95; hardcover; 272 pages

**C**eanothus includes the North American native plants known as wild or mountain or California lilacs.

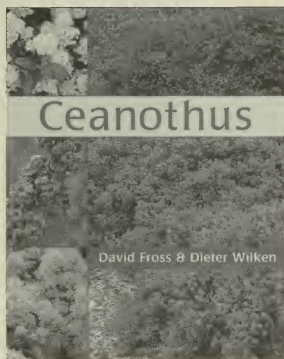
Flowers can be white to pink, but the genus is best known for its unrivaled range of blue flowers, many of which are scented. They are thus quite distinct from the common garden lilac, *Syringa vulgaris*, and other *Syringa* species, which grow best in areas

of pronounced winter chill. In April through June, ceanothus are readily observed on the ridges and slopes of the San Diego County backcountry.

As pointed out by these authors, Kate Sessions, one of the founders of San Diego Floral Association, introduced *Ceanothus cyaneus*, the San Diego ceanothus, to the California nursery trade in the 1920s. It became one of the most common native shrubs throughout the 1930s and 1940s. In the latter half of the 20th century, it was replaced in the nursery trade by smaller, more refined cultivars. It is, however, the parental source of a number of large-flowered hybrids, including Cal Poly, Gentian Plume, and Sierra Blue. The

Royal Horticulture Society introduced *Ceanothus* into European gardens in the early part of the 19th century, where it remains widely grown today.

This comprehensive book by Fross and Wilken is divided into two main sections, "Ceanothus in the Garden and Landscape" and "Ceanothus in the Wild." The first section contains a very useful plant selection guide for species and cultivars that are particularly good choices according to these criteria: garden-tolerant, fast-growing, bank covers, ground covers, informal hedges, screens, specimens and small tree, small garden, seashore gardens, shade-tolerant variegated foliage, summer-flowering, large trusses, and white flowers. It provides a very useful guide to these flowers for any gardener.—Karin Kratz



## Buddlejas

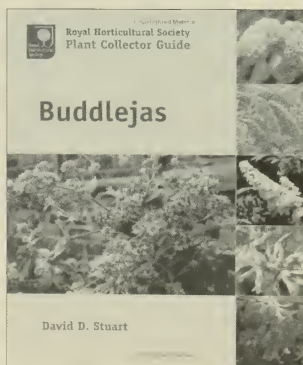
BY DAVID D. STUART  
TIMBER PRESS/ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

\$34.95; hardcover; 232 pages

**M**so many of the RHS books reprinted/printed in conjunction

with Oregon's Timber Press, is twofold: 90 percent of the information contained is geared to the U.K. climate (if it were at least a Mediterranean or South African climate, that might be of at least some help here), and the subject is


usually treated so exhaustively that no one other than a specialist can make extensive use of it.



That said, buddlejas (often erroneously spelled "buddleias"), also known as butterfly bush or summer lilac, can be valuable plants here in Southern California. They grow, in fact, everywhere, in all climates. As the common name suggests, their scented racemes attract butterflies and vaguely resemble lilacs, which, with very few exceptions, will not grow here, and they have a long bloom season.

Most of the beautiful hybrids, which are the only buddlejas of interest to the average gardener, are derived from *B. davidii*, originating in northern Asia. This book does indeed cover those hybrids to some extent, but many of those mentioned are either unavailable here or available but under different names. The cultural advice given is either greatly inapplicable to our climate or impractical. For those who wish to get into the species in (incredible) depth, this is a handsome, extremely professional, well-written volume, but largely useless for the average—or even dedicated—San Diego gardener.—Fredrik Liljeblad

Did you know? All the books reviewed in *California Garden* are in the San Diego Floral Association library!



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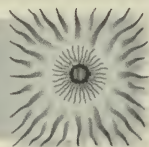
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**LA JOLLA CHAPTER**  
P.O. Box 500765 858-672-7850  
San Diego, CA 92150-0765  
2nd Tues - 10:00 a.m., La Jolla Library  
**OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA**  
**SAN DIEGO CHAPTER**  
Pres: Akiko Bourland 858-273-5899  
2936 Havasupai Ave.  
San Diego, CA 92117-1641  
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**SAN DIEGO BRANCH**  
Director: Hiroko Szechinski 858-571-6137  
10830 Montego Dr.  
San Diego, CA 92124-1421  
**SOGETSU SCHOOL OF IKEBANA**  
Master Instructor: Sumiko Lahey 619-429-6198  
2829 Flax Dr.  
San Diego, CA 92154-2160
- PLANT SOCIETIES:**  
**AFRICAN VIOLET**  
**CARLSBAD AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY**  
Pres: Barbara Conrad 858-759-6746  
3435 Jasmine Crest  
Encinitas, CA 92024-7036  
4th Mon - 10:00 a.m. - Vista Library, 700 Eucalyptus Ave.  
**BEGONIA**  
**ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH**  
**✦ AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY**  
Pres: Doris Smith 619-222-1294  
4505 Long Branch Ave.  
San Diego CA 92107-2333  
2nd Tue - 10:30 a.m., Homes of Members  
**MABEL CORWIN BRANCH**  
**AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY**  
Pres: Dean Turney 760-942-1919  
467 Fulvia  
Encinitas, CA 92024-2146  
2nd Sun - 1:30 p.m., except May & Aug.  
Quail Gardens  
**MARGARET LEE BRANCH**  
**AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY**  
Pres: Michael Ludwig 619-262-7535  
6040 Upland St.  
San Diego CA 92114-1933  
Last Sat - 10:30 a.m., Homes of Members  
**BONSAI**  
**HON NON BO ASSOCIATION**  
Pres: Brenda Storey 858-689-0957  
9976 Dauntless St.  
San Diego, CA 92126-5514  
1st Sun. every other month (begin Feb.)  
10:30 a.m., Casa del Prado  
**SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB, INC.**  
Information: 619-699-8776  
P.O. Box 40037  
San Diego CA 92164-0037  
2nd Sun. - 10:30 a.m., Casa del Prado  
Beginning & intermediate classes at 9:00 am before meeting
- IKEBANA SCHOOLS:**  
**ICHIYO SCHOOL OF IKEBANA**  
**SAN DIEGO CHAPTER**  
Pres: Haruko Crawford 619-660-2046  
10411 San Carlos Dr.  
Spring Valley, CA 91978-1034  
**IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER 119**  
Pres: Janet Judge 858-759-2477  
P.O. Box 2248  
Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067-2248  
4th Wed - 10:00 a.m., Casa del Prado  
**IKENOBOKU CHAPTER OF SAN DIEGO**  
Pres: Mrs. Charles Oehler 858-278-5689

## CLUB AND PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATES (continued)

### BROMELIAD

BROMELIAD STUDY GROUP OF  
BALBOA PARK  
Pres: Joann Dossett 619-299-4115  
2871 Brant St.  
San Diego, CA 92103-6119  
2nd Tue. - 7:00 p.m., Casa del Prado  
SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY  
Pres: Mary Whittemore 619-561-0687  
P. O. Box 83996  
San Diego, CA 92138-3966  
2nd Sat. - 10:00 a.m., Casa del Prado  
EXCEPT Nov. & Dec.  
NORTH COUNTY BROMELIAD SOCIETY  
Pres: Margaret Case 760-721-8422  
610 Rockledge St.  
Oceanside, CA 92054-4230  
4th Sun. - 1:00 p.m., Ecke Building, Quail Gardens

### CACTUS & SUCCULENT

PALOMAR CACTUS AND SUCCULENT  
SOCIETY  
P. O. Box 840  
Escondido, CA 92033  
4th Sat. - 12:15 p.m., Joslyn Sr. Ctr., Escondido  
SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND  
SUCCULENT SOCIETY  
Pres: Mark Fryer 619-795-1020  
P. O. Box 33181  
San Diego, CA 92163-3181  
2nd Sat. - 1:00 p.m., Casa del Prado

### CAAMELLIA

SAN DIEGO CAAMELLIA SOCIETY  
Pres: E. C. (Gene) Snooks 858-454-6659  
6114 La Jolla Blvd.  
La Jolla, CA 92037-6702  
3rd Wed. - 7:00 p.m., Casa del Prado  
Meetings Nov. through Apr. ONLY

### DAHLIA

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY  
Pres: David J. Tooley 858-672-2593  
11375 Nawa Way  
San Diego, CA 92129-1116  
Email: djsj21643@aol.com  
4th Tue. - 7:30 p.m., Casa del Prado

### DAYLILY (HEMEROCALLIS)

SOUTHWEST HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY  
Contact: Betsy Hamblin 858-483-5584  
851 Opal St.  
San Diego, CA 92109-1780  
1st Sat. - 10:00 a.m., Sep. through May  
Quail Gardens

### EPIPHYLLUM

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY  
Pres: Phil Peck 619-491-9495  
P. O. Box 126127  
San Diego, CA 92112-6127  
Website: www.epiphyllum.com  
2nd Wed. - 7:30 p.m., Casa del Prado

### FERN

SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY  
Pres: Sherry Worthen 858-278-2017  
3141 Cabrillo Mesa Dr.  
San Diego, CA 92123-2945  
3rd Thu. - 7:30 p.m., Casa del Prado

### FRUIT

CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS  
Chair: David Silverstein  
4722 Coronado Ave.  
San Diego, CA 92107-3543  
4th Thu. - 7:00 p.m., Casa del Prado  
Nov. & Dec. ONLY, 3rd Thu.

### GERANIUM

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY  
Pres: Jim Budlove 619-287-6299  
6404 Zena Dr.  
San Diego, CA 92115-7026  
2nd Tue. - 7:00 p.m., Casa del Prado

### HERB

THE SAN DIEGO HERB CLUB  
Pres: Heidi Behnke 619-231-0182  
2721 A St.  
San Diego, CA 92102-1019  
1st Wed. - 7:00 p.m., Balboa Park Casa del Prado,  
Room 101, no meeting July or Dec.

### IRIS

SAN DIEGO/IMPERIAL COUNTIES  
IRIS SOCIETY  
Pres: Ted Howse 619-479-3887  
3915 Vista San Miguel, Bonita, CA 91902-2345  
2nd Sun. - 1:00 p.m.  
Call for newsletter and location  
SAN FERNANDO VALLEY IRIS SOCIETY  
Pres: Eileen Fiumara 818-986-4188  
4512 Sunnyslope Ave.  
Sherman Oaks, CA 91423-3119  
1st Thu. - 7:30 p.m. - Canoga Park Women's Club  
7401 Jordan, Canoga Park

### NATIVE PLANTS

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY  
SAN DIEGO CHAPTER 619-685-7321  
P. O. Box 121390  
San Diego, CA 92112-1390  
3rd Tue. - 7:30 p.m., Casa del Prado  
LAKE HODGES NATIVE PLANT CLUB  
Pres: Yolanda Fleet 760-745-1219  
3045 Felicita Rd.  
Escondido, CA 92029-6725  
4th Mon. - 2:00 p.m. - Rancho Bernardo  
Library, 2nd floor

### ORCHID

SAN DIEGO COUNTY CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY  
A BRANCH OF THE CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY  
OF AMERICA, INC.  
Pres: Loren Ellsworth 858-748-8355  
14730 Dash Way  
Poway, CA 92064-2914  
3rd Wed. - 7:00 p.m., Carlsbad Women's Club  
SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY  
Pres: Genie Hammond 619-426-6831  
P. O. Box 161020  
San Diego, CA 92176-1020  
1st Thu. - 7:30 p.m., Casa del Prado

### ORGANIC

BONITA ORGANIC GARDEN CLUB  
Pres: Ron Nordfelt 619-475-8086  
935 Rawhide Ct.  
Bonita, CA 91902-2422  
4th Tue. - 7:00 p.m., Bonita Valley Baptist Church at  
4701 Sweetwater Rd. Meeting in back. EXCEPT Aug.  
& Dec.

### PLUMERIA

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PLUMERIA SOCIETY  
Pres: Joy Herzog 619-443-4795  
P. O. Box 20553  
El Cajon, CA 92021-0940  
4th Sun. - 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m., Feb. through Oct.  
Casa del Prado, Room 102  
Email: c.herzog@att.net

### ROSE

EAST COUNTY ROSE SOCIETY  
Pres: Karen Mannino 619-401-9625  
11977 Paso Fuerte  
El Cajon, CA 92020-8366  
Website: www.eastcountyrosesociety.com  
1st Sun. - 2:00 p.m., except July & Aug.  
Gardens of Members  
SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY  
Pres: Ruth Tiffany 619-462-5753  
6705 Maury Dr.  
San Diego, CA 92119-2020  
www.sdrosesociety.org  
3rd Mon. - 7:30 p.m., Casa del Prado  
EXCEPT Jan. & Feb. - 4th Mon.  
No meetings July & Aug.

### TREES

PEOPLE FOR TREES  
Contact: Pat Stevenson 619-222-TREE  
P. O. Box 120505 619-223-TREE  
San Diego, CA 92112-0505  
Email: adoglover1@juno.com  
4th Tue. - 6:30 p.m., 743 Imperial Ave.

### WATER GARDEN

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER  
GARDEN SOCIETY  
Pres: Ed Simpson 760-436-3704  
1302 Avocado Rd.  
Oceanside, CA 92054-5702  
3rd Sun. - Apr. through Oct.  
Website: groups.yahoo.com/group/sdwatergarten  
Email: dc@pondplants.com  
Call for meeting information.

### AFFILIATES:

Send changes to Affiliates Editor, California  
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